

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

S E C R E T STATE 220276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPERS

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF A PAPER DESCRIBING NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN YOUR COUNTRY AS IT RELATES TO UNITED STATES DRUG SCENE. TREAT THIS AS SECRET-NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION. THIS IS AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEWS. ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS ARISING FROM MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THIS PAPER SHOULD BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY CABLE. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AT MEXICO CITY REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS THIS ASSESSMENT PAPER WITH WASHINGTON REPS THERE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: PERU CONTINUES TO BE A KEY SOURCE FOR COCAINE, SUPPLYING CHILEAN, ECUADOREAN, AND COLOMBIAN CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES WITH COCA LEAVES AND COCAINE PASTE. THE US EMBASSY IN LIMA ESTIMATES THAT 20 MILLION KILOGRAMS OF COCA LEAVES ARE PRODUCED ANNUALLY. OF THIS AMOUNT TRAFFICKERS PROBABLY ACCOUNT FOR 7 TO 8 MILLION KILOGRAMS FOR THEIR ILLICIT PURPOSES. OPIUM PRODUCTION IS SMALL; SOME IS GROWN IN ONE OUTLYING DEPARTMENT, BUT IT APPARENTLY DOES NOT YET LEND ITSELF TO
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EXPLOITATION BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY HIGHLY ORGANIZED TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION DEALING IN COCAINE.

PROBLEM: ENFORCEMENT IS HINDERED BY A LACK OF EXPERIENCED NARCOTICS SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL IN THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICE. LOWER LEVEL POLICE OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN TAKING BRIBES. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS STILL REGARD DRUG TRAFFICKING AS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM. A TRADITION OF CONTRABAND AND SMUGGLING IMPEDES PROGRESS. DRUG LAWS ON THE BOOKS ARE ADEQUATE, BUT THE IMPOSITION OF JUSTICE IS SADLY LACKING. THE CHEWING OF COCA LEAVES BY PERUVIAN INDIANS IS SO INGRAINED ON THE CULTURE AS TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ERADICATE.

ASSESSMENT: PERU WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF COCA LEAVES FOR THE ILLICIT MARKET UNLESS ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES IMPROVE AND GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES AND METHODS CHANGE. CROP SUBSTITUTION FOR COCA SEEMS UNACHIEVABLE. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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